

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OFA-01

DLOS-03 INT-05 /064 W

----- 102214

R 210918Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 455

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LNO SAIPAN

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0358

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PP

SUBJECT: SHIFTING VIEWS ON PNG FOREIGN POLICY

1. SIAGURA, ACTING SECRETARY, DFRT, TOLD ME AT LUNCH APRIL 15 THAT VIEWS ON PNG FOREIGN POLICY ARE BEGINNING TO SHIFT. UNTIL RECENTLY, DFRT HAD SEEN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AS THEIR CLOSEST TIES. GPNG HAD SOME ASPIRATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP WITHIN THIS GROUP, SIAGURA SAID, AND BELIEVED THAT IN FIFTEEN OR TWENTY YEARS PNG MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXTEND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

2. NOW, HOWEVER, DFRT IS BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE THAT PNG'S PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES, SIAGURA COMMENTED. THIS HAS BEEN VERY EVIDENT IN LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS. PNG HELD A PRE-CONFERENCE IN PORT MORESBY AND INVITED OTHER PACIFIC COUNTRIES. BUT AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE PNG HAD TO RECOGNIZE THAT ITS POSITION WAS MUCH CLOSER TO THE POSITIONS OF INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES THAN TO THE POSITIONS OF THE OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

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COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

3. SIAGURA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WITH REGARD TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL PAPUA NEW GUINEA WAS MUCH CLOSER TO INDONEAIS AND THE PHILIPPINES THAN TO THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: A SHIFT SUCH AS THIS WILL REQUIRE SOME INTENSIVE SOUL SEARCHING IN GPNG. IN ADDITION TO THE ETHNIC AND SENTIMENTAL TIES WITH THE OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES, GPNG HAS FELT MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE IN DEALING WITH SMALL NATIONS THAN WITH BIG ONES. A SENSE OF INSECURITY IN DEALING WITH MAJOR NATIONS IS VERY EVIDENT HERE. THE RECENT PROBLEMS WITH JAPAN (REPORTED EARLIER) HAVE NOT EASED THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT DEALING WITH BIG COUNTRIES.
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